- 1 (Whereupon, the aforementioned
- 2 document was marked for
- 3 identification as Enterprises
- 4 Exhibit Number ENT-192.)
- 5 MR. SCHMIDT: If I may approach,
- 6 Your Honor?
- 7 BY MR. SCHMIDT:
- 8 Q I have marked for identification
- 9 in paper form the same chart that appears up
- 10 on the board as ENT-192. Is this a chart that
- 11 was prepared at your direction?
- 12 A Yes, it was.
- 13 Q Can you tell us what data is
- 14 reflected? Does this derive from data in your
- 15 written testimony?
- 16 A Yes. And I believe that the data
- 17 when it was originally presented was in
- 18 tabular form. It showed up in a table. In
- 19 this the only difference here is that it's now
- 20 showing up in graphical form.
- 21 O And what does this data show?
- 22 What is reflected in this data? What does it

- 1 capture?
- 2 A Right. So recall that I said that
- 3 we begin with 240 contracts in a database
- 4 between NFL and MVPDs. What we did, instead
- 5 of going through all 240, we sorted them in
- 6 terms of the biggest to the smallest,
- 7 starting, I believe, with DirecTV. And then
- 8 we moved down.
- 9 And after we had gotten through 9
- 10 contracts -- and these are the 9 MVPDs whose
- 11 contracts we studied -- we were able to
- 12 account for roughly 95 percent of all of NFL
- 13 Network's national subscribers.
- 14 What these numbers indicate is
- 15 what is referred to as the net effective rate
- 16 paid by that MVPD to NFL Network in 2008.
- 17 Q So, for example, what did Blue
- 18 Ridge pay in 2008?
- 19 A Blue Ridge -- and I just want to
- 20 -- I want to consult. Instead of eyeballing
- 21 it, I want to get it off my report. I recall
- but bear with me. Sorry.

- 1 Right. Blue Ridge paid NFL
- 2 Network on net per subscriber per month
- 3 to NFL Network in 2008.
- 4 Q Fair market transaction?
- 5 A Absolutely. It was a voluntary
- 6 transaction between a willing buyer and a
- 7 willing seller.
- 8 Q Let me just take a step back. The
- 9 blue lines are actual contract prices from the
- 10 largest MVPDs that collectively carry 95
- 11 percent of the NFL Network subscribers?
- 12 A That is correct.
- 13 Q What is the green line, "Simple
- 14 Average"?
- 15 A It's exactly that. It's that if
- 16 you take the 9 observations in 2008 and just
- 17 take a simple average, you would get
- 18 per subscriber per month.
- 19 Q And that was not what you offered
- 20 as price for Comcast, was it? It's predicted
- 21 price for Comcast?
- 22 A No, it was not. My fair market

- valuation for what Comcast should pay --
- 2 again, conditional on a finding of
- 3 discrimination and conditional finding of
- 4 impairment of arrival -- is roughly
- 5 below the average, the simple average, among
- 6 the 9 largest MVPDs who carry NFL Network.
- 7 Q Why is that?
- 8 A Well, it's because Comcast is
- 9 special. And so what I mean by that is that
- 10 our database allows us to look beyond the
- 11 averages. Okay?
- 12 So if you knew nothing about Blue
- 13 Ridge, RCN, or AT&T and all you knew what it
- 14 was paying NFL, the best measure of the fair
- 15 market value would be the average. And,
- 16 indeed, that is what regression analysis
- 17 begins with.
- 18 It begins with the And
- 19 then what it does is it says, if I look at
- 20 other attributes, say, for example, how many
- 21 subscribers the MVPD shows NFL Network, is it
- 22 possible that I can start to explain these

- variations that we are observing?
- 2 You see the high end is Blue Ridge
- 3 at per subscriber month. And it goes
- 4 all the way down to DISH Network. I have to
- 5 consult my table. It's somewhere between
- per month.
- 7 And so what the regression
- 8 analysis is attempting to do is can we
- 9 identify any attributes of the carriers of the
- 10 MVPDs that allow us to explain that variation?
- 11 Q What is the existing Comcast
- 12 price?
- 13 A Okay. The very bottom bar that
- 14 shows up in yellow, existing contract price,
- is the price that actually appears in the NFL
- 16 Comcast agreement that was signed in 2004 for
- 17 carriage on Comcast's expanded basic tier.
- 18 Q Now, has Comcast ever priced that
- 19 low?
- 20 A No, they haven't because they
- 21 never carry it on the expanded basic tier.
- 22 Q Can you explain how that works?

- 1 A For each tier in the contract --
- 2 and this is based on an economist's reading of
- 3 the contract, mind you -- there is a different
- 4 price. So there is a price for D2 carriage.
- 5 There is a price -- which they did carry it
- 6 for a while. There is a price for expanded
- 7 basic. And there is a price for the sports
- 8 tier.
- And so we don't have to go by
- 10 memory, Your Honor, I have all those three
- 11 prices from the contract in my report.
- 12 Q And you do, in fact, have a D2
- 13 price in your report?
- 14 A Yes, I do.
- 15 O Okay. Let me ask you just one
- 16 other question. And maybe Mr. Burke can
- 17 extend me a courtesy. If I understand Mr.
- 18 Carroll, that board over there is the table
- 19 that was shown to Mr. Hawkins from that slide.
- MR. SCHMIDT: May I just use that,
- 21 instead of fishing out the exhibit, just for
- 22 ease? Do you mind just popping that up there

- 1 for a minute? Can you flip it around there so
- 2 I can just see if that was what I was thinking
- 3 of? Okay. That is the one I was thinking of.
- 4 If I may just stand so I can see
- 5 it, Your Honor?
- BY MR. SCHMIDT:
- 7 Q Do you recall Mr. Hawkins about
- 8 being asked about this testimony --
- 9 A Yes, I do.
- 10 Q -- about this table -- I'm sorry
- 11 -- and the three columns in the table?
- 12 A Yes, I do.
- 13 Q Under your predicted price, which
- 14 you understand to be the price the NFL Network
- is seeking in this litigation, which one of
- 16 those three columns?
- 17 A It would be in the second column.
- 18 Q Okay. And, just as a factual
- 19 matter, do you know where Versus' actual price
- 20 and Golf Channel's actual price falls
- 21 currently among those three columns?
- 22 A It falls in the same column, the

- 1 second column.
- 2 MR. SCHMIDT: You can take that
- 3 down now. Nature is going to help you. Matt,
- 4 you can take that down. Take those away.
- 5 Thank you.
- BY MR. SCHMIDT:
- 7 Q I would like to show you one more
- 8 thing. Did you make an estimate of how to
- 9 count for growth in your predicted price into
- 10 the future?
- 11 A Yes, I did.
- 12 Q Okay. What I would like to mark
- 13 for --
- 14 JUDGE SIPPEL: Let's finish this
- 15 one. Exhibit 192 is marked for
- 16 identification. Do you want to move that into
- 17 evidence?
- 18 MR. SCHMIDT: I would, Your Honor.
- 19 Thank you for the reminder.
- JUDGE SIPPEL: Any objection?
- MR. BURKE: No, Your Honor.
- JUDGE SIPPEL: Received in

- 1 simple. I just grew it at the average rate of
- 2 growth of all other MVPDs for which I had data
- 3 in those years.
- 4 Q And, just to be absolutely clear
- 5 on this one, do you have an analog of this
- 6 table in your direct testimony, your written
- 7 direct testimony?
- 8 A Yes, I do.
- 9 O Are the numbers in it different?
- 10 A The numbers are different.
- 11 0 Is that because new information
- 12 has become available to you since the date you
- 13 submitted your written testimony?
- 14 A Yes, it has.
- 15 O What is that new information?
- 16 A Since I submitted my written
- 17 testimony, I have been provided two new
- 18 contracts, an NFL DISH Network contract and an
- 19 NFL DirecTV contract, that had the effect of
- 20 changing some of the rates in certain years.
- 21 And, just to be precise, the DISH
- 22 Network contract changed Dish's rates for

- 1 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. And the DirecTV
- 2 new contract changed DirecTV's rate for 2012
- 3 only.
- 4 So that forced me to go back and
- 5 recalculate this average year over year growth
- 6 rate and in a way that I might add is highly
- 7 favorable to Comcast relative to what appears
- 8 in my written testimony.
- 9 Q It lowers the growth rate?
- 10 A Significantly.
- 11 Q Do you stand by your testimony in
- 12 your written testimony on the future growth
- 13 rate based on the data that was available to
- 14 you at the time you gave that testimony?
- 15 A Oh, absolutely. It was the best
- 16 that I could do conditional on having that
- 17 data.
- 18 Q And, based on the data you now
- 19 have available to you, do you stand by what we
- 20 have marked for identification as ENT-193?
- 21 A Yeah. Well, the thing that I care
- 22 about as an economist is the methodology. And

- 1 I believe the methodology was correct.
- 2 Q Not changed?
- 3 A The methodology is not changed.
- 4 We're just putting in new data. And it's
- 5 spitting out smaller growth rates.
- 6 MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, at this
- 7 point I would like to move this into evidence
- 8 as ENT-193.
- 9 JUDGE SIPPEL: Okay. It's
- 10 identified as Enterprises exhibit number 193.
- 11 Is there any objection?
- MR. BURKE: No, Your Honor.
- JUDGE SIPPEL: It's received in
- 14 evidence as Enterprises exhibit number 193.
- 15 (Whereupon, the aforementioned
- document, having previously been
- 17 marked for identification as
- 18 Enterprises Exhibit Number
- 19 ENT-193, was received in
- evidence.)
- BY MR. SCHMIDT:
- 22 Q Let's return, Dr. Singer, if you

- 1 wouldn't mind, to the chart where you graphed
- 2 out how much real world MVPDs pay for NFL
- 3 Network, which I believe we previously
- 4 introduced into evidence as ENT-192. Do you
- 5 have that in front of you?
- 6 A I do now.
- 7 Q If you compare the predicted price
- 8 that you have proposed in this litigation for
- 9 Comcast to the real world price that other
- 10 MVPDs pay for the NFL Network, where in that
- 11 scale does your predicted price fall?
- 12 A It's near the bottom. In fact,
- 13 it's the lowest with the exception of DISH
- 14 Network.
- MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Dr.
- 16 Singer. That's all my questions for the
- 17 introduction.
- 18 JUDGE SIPPEL: Which one is the
- 19 existing contract prices? That's with
- 20 Comcast, of course.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Can you leave that
- 22 up, please?

- 1 JUDGE SIPPEL: Just for the
- 2 clarification here, existing Comcast contract
- 3 prices, the one that you have got on the
- 4 bottom. Is that correct?
- 5 THE WITNESS: Correct. Your
- 6 Honor, my --
- JUDGE SIPPEL: Then the predicted
- 8 price is for whom?
- 9 THE WITNESS: For Comcast.
- JUDGE SIPPEL: Also Comcast?
- 11 THE WITNESS: Yes, If I could
- 12 just --
- JUDGE SIPPEL: Yes. Go ahead. Go
- 14 ahead. I'm sorry.
- 15 THE WITNESS: This is admittedly
- 16 hard stuff. Let's see if I can do it justice.
- 17 We have a contract that is signed between
- 18 Comcast and the NFL Network that stipulates a
- 19 price for carriage on the expanded basic tier.
- 20 So the question is, why am I going
- 21 through the exercise of trying to predict a
- 22 price based on what other people are paying in

- light of this contract?
- And my basis for this, I'm trying
- 3 to follow this eight-factor test that the FCC
- 4 has given us for what type of evidence should
- 5 be used to inform fair market value.
- 6 And the factor on the top -- it's,
- 7 in fact, number one -- says you want to look
- 8 at what other parties, third parties, have
- 9 paid in voluntary transactions. That's factor
- 10 number one. If you can get that, that is the
- 11 best you can do.
- 12 Short of that, there are other
- 13 things that you can look at. And somewhere
- 14 down the list, I believe it's number four or
- 15 number five, says you can look at the contract
- 16 but with the caveat that you have to be wary
- 17 that if the contract was cut under duress and
- 18 the price that comes out of that contract may
- 19 be tainted in the direction.
- In fact, I just would point out
- 21 the that Comcast was able to extract
- 22 is certainly below what everyone else was

- 1 paying in 2008, and it's below what my best
- 2 estimate is of what Comcast should pay. And
- 3 to me this reflects that Comcast was able to
- 4 exert a certain amount of market power to
- 5 extract it below market rate.
- 6 JUDGE SIPPEL: So that's a
- 7 price? The existing Comcast contract price is
- 8 54 cents?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 10 JUDGE SIPPEL: Okay.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Correct. And so --
- 12 JUDGE SIPPEL: I am trying to read
- 13 this.
- 14 THE WITNESS: I am offering that
- 15 purely as corroboration of my best prediction
- 16 based on what other MVPDs have voluntarily
- 17 paid Comcast. This is consistent with the
- 18 first item of the eight factors that the FCC
- 19 gives for what evidence should be considered
- 20 when estimating fair market value.
- JUDGE SIPPEL: Thank you.
- THE WITNESS: Sure.

- 1 JUDGE SIPPEL: Okay. Does that
- 2 conclude direct, then?
- 3 MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, it does, Your
- 4 Honor.
- 5 JUDGE SIPPEL: Then you're
- 6 tendering him for cross-examination at this
- 7 time?
- 8 MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, Your Honor.
- 9 JUDGE SIPPEL: Mr. Burke, your
- 10 witness.
- 11 MR. BURKE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 12 Good afternoon, Dr. Singer.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.
- MR. BURKE: My name is Arthur
- 15 Burke, and I represent Comcast.
- 16 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. BURKE:
- 18 Q Just to clean up a few sort of
- 19 housekeeping issues at the outset, you gave us
- 20 some testimony about the MASN decision. Do
- 21 you recall that?
- 22 A Yes, I do.

- 1 Q That's an M-A-S-N decision?
- 2 A It stands for Mid-Atlantic Sports
- 3 Network, yes.
- 4 Q I think you offered us some
- 5 testimony about what the FCC's decision is,
- 6 what the ruling of the FCC was in that
- 7 decision. Is that right?
- 8 A Yes, I did. With respect to the
- 9 conditions of merger approval and how that
- 10 impacted the negotiations between Comcast and
- 11 MASN, within a few weeks of that order, a deal
- 12 was struck that wouldn't have otherwise been
- 13 struck without the order.
- Q We heard the testimony the first
- 15 time. Dr. Singer, if you could just answer my
- 16 question?
- You mentioned a two-phase test.
- 18 Do you recall that in your testimony?
- 19 A Phase one and phase two, yes.
- 20 Q Right. And that came from the
- 21 MASN decision, that phase one and two
- 22 approach, didn't it?

- 1 A I'm not positive it came from the
- 2 MASN decision. What I can tell you is that
- 3 that was used in the TCRB-Time Warner case
- 4 that I was involved in.
- 5 It was phase one testimony, which,
- 6 by the way, I did not offer testimony in phase
- 7 one there. And then I offered testimony in
- 8 what was called phase two there.
- 9 Q I guess what I am trying to get
- 10 at, Dr. Singer, is, are you an attorney?
- 11 A No, I am not.
- 12 Q You are a Ph.D. economist, right?
- 13 A Correct.
- 14 Q Are you here to offer legal
- opinions about what the FCC's standards are?
- 16 A Certainly not offering legal
- opinions, but the fact that I have been
- 18 through two very important carriage disputes
- 19 to me implies that I have been through this,
- 20 I know how the process works, and I think that
- 21 I have something to say about that process.
- 22 Q So you are here to offer expert

- 1 testimony about the legal standards of the
- 2 SEC?
- 3 A No. I think I just said I wasn't
- 4 going to offer legal standards.
- 5 MR. BURKE: I would move to strike
- 6 the witness' testimony concerning what the
- 7 appropriate standards are. That is a legal
- 8 question to which he is not qualified to
- 9 testify.
- 10 MR. SCHMIDT: And we would
- ll objection. to that, Your Honor. The witness
- 12 testified that he had a factual basis from his
- 13 direct involvement in these cases. It came up
- in the course of him answering a question.
- He explained his understanding of
- 16 what the structure is. I think a witness in
- 17 this context is entitled to say, "This is my
- 18 understanding of what the structure I'm
- 19 operating in is, including based on experience
- 20 I have had where my testimony has been cited
- 21 by the FCC."
- MR. BURKE: Your Honor, that would

- 1 be like a witness saying, an expert witness
- 2 saying, I testified in another case and the
- 3 judge said X, Y, Z. And I'm going to get
- 4 testimony about what the legal standard is
- 5 based on the judge's rulings.
- 6 That is not an appropriate
- 7 position for an expert economist to be giving
- 8 testimony on.
- 9 MR. SCHMIDT: An expert is
- 10 entitled to say "This is why I did what I
- 11 did." And that's what he said and "It's based
- 12 on the experience that I had."
- MR. BURKE: I would note -- I'm
- 14 sorry. That said, it is not dispositive. It
- is already appealed to the full Commission.
- 16 And I am sure it will be appealed to the D.C.
- 17 Circuit after that.
- So I don't think it has any
- 19 significance for this Court except whatever
- 20 significance the Court, yourself, wants to
- 21 give it.
- But we certainly don't think that

- 1 that is the governing standard here.
- 2 MR. SCHMIDT: And that's fair. We
- 3 don't need this witness to tell us that that
- 4 is the government standard. He's not doing
- 5 that. He's saying, "This is what I am
- 6 familiar with. This is how I structured my
- 7 testimony. And this is why I structured my
- 8 testimony." We can resolve down the road
- 9 whether that's --
- JUDGE SIPPEL: Okay. I'm going to
- ll partially grant the relief Mr. Burke is asking
- in the sense that I won't accept it as expert
- 13 testimony. But he is a fact witness to that
- 14 case, at least for purpose of familiarity.
- 15 And I might have been one of the
- 16 ones that instituted him answering those
- 17 questions. I was trying to get a focus on
- 18 what the case was and what it was about. I
- 19 didn't mean him to go as far as he went.
- I am receiving his testimony for
- 21 purposes of identifying the case and what the
- 22 case was about, not for the efficacy of any

- 1 conclusion that he is testifying to.
- MR. BURKE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 3 That's all we need, Your Honor.
- 4 JUDGE SIPPEL: So let's move
- 5 forward, then.
- 6 BY MR. BURKE:
- 7 Q Just one quick question for you,
- 8 Dr. Singer, based upon this chart, which is
- 9 NFL Enterprises exhibit 192. An item here, we
- 10 had the DirecTV price, which looked to be in
- 11 the low 60 cents. Is that right?
- 12 A By eyeball, it looks to be in the
- correct.
- 14 O And so now DirecTV accounts for
- 15 about half of the subscribers in the sample,
- 16 doesn't it?
- 17 A I don't have that number handy.
- 18 So I can't confirm or deny it.
- 19 Q It's really, by far, the largest
- 20 MVPD that is in the sample, isn't it?
- 21 A It is the largest.
- 22 Q I mean, it's actually dozens and

- 1 dozens times larger than, say, Blue Ridge, for
- 2 example, right?
- 3 A It is. And that's why I stopped
- 4 at Blue Ridge. I kept going from the largest
- 5 to the smallest until I exhausted 95 percent
- 6 of -- by definition, I was going to have some
- 7 of my sample that was much smaller than
- 8 DirecTV.
- 9 O So if we were to conclude that
- 10 DirecTV's price was not a reliable price and
- ll essentially a fictional price, that would have
- 12 a big impact on your analysis, wouldn't it?
- 13 A Well, I can't accept that
- 14 conclusion. It's a market transaction between
- 15 a voluntary buyer and a voluntary seller.
- 16 Q Well, I am not asking you to
- 17 accept a factual representation. I am asking
- 18 you as an expert to consider a hypothetical.
- 19 If we determine that DirecTV's
- 20 price is not a reliable real price, then that
- 21 would render this entire analysis unreliable.
- 22 Isn't that right?

- 1 A If we made hat horrendous
- 2 uneconomic assumption, we would have to -- we
- 3 would lose that data point. What we would do,
- 4 instead, is go down to someone below Blue
- 5 Ridge who would have an even higher price.
- 6 And so my fair market value
- 7 estimation would be even higher than the one
- 8 that I have offered.
- 9 Q So the answer is yes. You would
- 10 render this unreliable?
- 11 A No, no.
- 12 MR. SCHMIDT: Objection.
- 13 THE WITNESS: No, it's not. And I
- 14 think that's a gross mischaracterization of
- 15 what I just said.
- BY MR. BURKE:
- 17 Q So if you took DirecTV out, it
- 18 would not render your conclusions thus far
- 19 unreliable?
- 20 A No, it would not.
- 21 Q With respect to the number that
- 22 you calculated or the correct market price, it

- 1 wouldn't change that?
- 2 A It would move the needle, but it
- 3 would move it against your favor. It would
- 4 move it against the interest of your client.
- 5 We put in a smaller MVPD with a higher price.
- 6 And that would pull the average up.
- 7 And this is my attempt to come up
- 8 with the best estimate of the fair market
- 9 value that Comcast should pay.
- 10 Q Is it any surprise that the
- 11 predicted price here comes out almost exactly
- 12 directly as identical to the DirecTV price
- 13 since they're the largest MVPD by far on this
- 14 list?
- 15 A It's not a big surprise. In fact,
- 16 I controlled for size. So this is what a
- 17 regression does. It tries to find the person,
- 18 the MVPD, in the sample who is closest to the
- 19 person you are trying to predict for.
- 20 So the fact that it comes out in
- 21 between DirecTV and Dish corresponds perfectly
- 22 to my expectation.